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National Public Lands Day 2022

Public lands encompass native land now managed by state and federal agencies.

Georgia ForestWatch was founded in 1986 and is the only nonprofit solely dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring Georgia's national forests, the most acreage of public land managed by a single agency in the state.

Our public lands are a treasure for all to explore, from the southern terminus of the busy Appalachian Trail to the remote interior of the Cohutta Wilderness. Some of these lands need healing, and some may draw in our many human hands and feet time and time

again. Still, these lands are living museums of environmental history intertwined into our lives regardless of if we live beside them or thousands of miles away.

Public lands are not just dirt, treetops, and waterfalls. These lands we seek to preserve showcase pockets of untrammled mysteries and hold a canvas for dwindling biodiversity and climate resilience. These lands represent every living thing that moves above, through, and below them. Even the water, air, and rocks that contribute must be considered as we explore and plan for our future public lands.

Join us in taking a moment to recognize national forest lands in Georgia that were first purchased in 1911, and the land managers tasked with listening to all who care about these lands.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest is currently managed for: Timber, Fire, Recreation, Wildlife, Water, Geology, Heritage, and Wilderness. We recognize the complexity of managing these lands for **ALL** and continue to advocate for more natural processes and identify opportunities to improve forest management.

We celebrate each of the 866,489 acres of national forest in Georgia. We invite you to spend a morning learning and monitoring one of the most visited Wilderness areas in North Georgia with us.

When: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 24, 2022
(National Public Lands Day)

What: Wilderness Monitoring and Hike to Preacher's Rock

Where: **Woody Gap Parking area**, Appalachian Trail, Blood Mountain Wilderness

Sign Up
Today

**The Long History of Racist and Offensive
Place Names in America**



Effective immediately, the [U.S. Board on Geographic Names](#) (BGN) has changed the names of nearly 650 geographic features using a vulgar word with a long history as an offensive ethnic, racial, and sexist slur, particularly for Indigenous women. While thankfully, Georgia was not on the list, this time, GAFW thanks the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force established by [Secretary's Order 3404](#). The [list of new names](#) can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey website with a [map of locations](#).

In addition to the removal of this word from its once prominent role in America's public place names, there is also a movement to rename "Clingman's Dome" in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park back to its native name "Kuwohi," which in Cherokee means "the mulberry place." Named by the federal government in 1859, the mountain's namesake is Confederate General and NC Sen. Thomas Lanier Clingman, who was expelled from the U.S. Senate as a traitor for "conspiracy for the destruction of the Union and Government."

In Georgia, GAFW has identified the [Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area](#) as a top site within our state's national forest in needing renaming. Look for an in-depth analysis in a future ForestWatch Journal for a rationale on why we should not be honoring General Scott.

If you know of any racist or offensive place names within the

boundaries of the [Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests](#), please send them to outreach@gafw.org so GAFW can investigate and potentially seek renaming.

Archeologist Volunteers Wanted



During the week of October 31 - November 4, 2022, you can join a team of professional archeologists and USFS staff in northeast Georgia to excavate a culturally and historically significant site on the Middle Fork of the Broad River.

Key information:

- Dates 10/31/22-11/4/22. Volunteers must commit to the entire session.
- Number of openings: 6
- Special skills: Previous archaeological excavation/testing, survey, mapping, artifact identification, sketching, and/or photography experience helpful but not required
- Minimum age: 10 years old; applicants under 18 must apply with a parent or guardian; guardians **MUST** submit a separate application and plan to attend.
- Strict COVID-19 protocols will be followed, including wearing masks, social distancing, etc.
- Facilities: FS Lake Russell Campground is located ~15 miles (a 30-minute drive) from the site area; amenities vary at the campground; Cornelia and Commerce are full-service communities with hotels/motels, restaurants, and a range of other amenities.
- Volunteers responsible for own lodging/personal camping equipment, food, water, and daily transportation to and from designated meeting area (if opting for in-town accommodations)
- Nearest towns: Toccoa, 9 miles; Cornelia, 12 miles; Commerce, 30 miles
- Applications due: Ongoing until filled!
- [More information and apply here.](#)

The Wurst Festival Ever

Come to the Wurst Festival you have ever attended! Join [Georgia ForestWatch](#) on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Fannin Brewing Company located at 3758 East First Street, Blue Ridge, GA 30513, for a day of music, beer, and German-style sausages.

We will have fantastic artisan sausages from some of the best Sausage makers around with music provided by [David Welch](#). All proceeds from the ticket and T-shirt sales go to support Georgia ForestWatch.

\$30 gets you

- A special Wurst Festival glass.
- Free first beer. Cash sales after.
- One fantastic sausage. Additional sausages for sale after.
- Music from David Welch.
- Family friendly.
- Dogs welcome.
- Hang out with the GAFW gang.

Also, for a limited time, you can order your [Wurst Festival Ever t-shirt](#). We look forward to seeing you at Fannin Brewing on Saturday, October 22.

How about a hike before the festival? Members expressed interest in coming together on the morning of 10/22 in the Blue Ridge area for a hike and afterward relaxing at the festival. We have already identified a likely route but need a hike leader. No experience is necessary. If you are interested in leading or participating in this morning hike, please contact outreach@gafw.org.

Get Your
Tickets



Upcoming Events

Saturday September 17–Look for the GAFW booth in our hometown square tomorrow at the [Dahlongega Trail Festival](#). Make sure to stop by and say hello.

Saturday, October 15–[GAFW](#) Annual Retreat, Lake Winfield Scott.

Reservations closed! Join our [wait list](#) today. (We anticipate being able to offer a few spots from our wait list.)

Saturday, October 22–Tickets Now Available! [Wurst Festival](#) GAFW fundraiser at [Fannin Brewing Company](#)

Friday-Sunday, November 4-6–[Hemlock Fest](#) at Cherokee Farms, Lafayette, GA

We Need Volunteers

Wilderness Monitoring Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to provide valuable data to the US Forest Service (USFS) about Wilderness areas in Georgia.

[Volunteer](#)

If this email was forwarded to you, [please register here](#) to receive GAFW updates.

Thank You

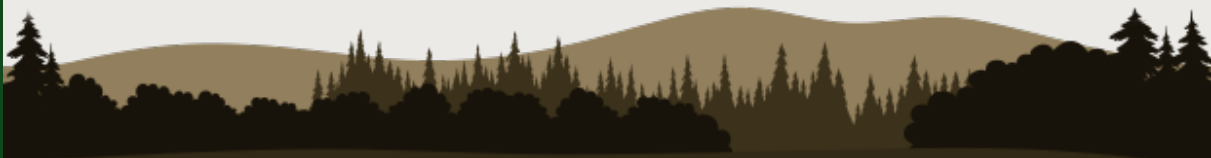
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

Please support our mission by ensuring your [membership is up to date](#) and providing [additional support](#) as you are able.

On behalf of our entire national forests in our beautiful state, we thank you for your support.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the health of over 867,000 acres of Georgia's national forest by protecting our forests and streams, advocating for natural processes, and identifying opportunities to improve forest management. Visit [Georgia ForestWatch](#) (GAFW) to learn more.



Connect with us



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